



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Science Museum of Minnesota receives Gulf Guardian Award

BATON ROUGE – The Science Museum of Minnesota was honored with the first place Gulf Guardian Award in the Education category at the 2009 Gulf Guardian Awards ceremony held at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi, on Thursday night.

Dr. Harold Leggett, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, [also](#) presented a Louisiana Governor's Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of the Science Museum's Research and Education Initiative. "States play a critical role in managing, protecting and restoring the Gulf of Mexico environment, and the Gulf Guardian Awards give our citizens, businesses, agencies and universities an opportunity to be recognized for their hard work on behalf of the Gulf," Leggett said. "Louisiana has been proud to support Gulf Guardian Awards for the State of Iowa in 2008 and Minnesota in 2009 for their actions to benefit the Gulf and Louisiana environments."

The Science Museum's environmental research institute, the St. Croix Watershed Research Station, has conducted innovative research on historic changes in water quality along the upper Mississippi River. Their findings have been pivotal in leading the effort to reduce nutrient and sediment deposits into the river. In partnership with the American Museum of Natural History, the Science Museum has developed "Water," a 7,000 square-foot traveling exhibition which tours international venues in order to educate the public on the key role that water plays in shaping our society and infrastructure. In early 2009, the Science Museum augmented the exhibit with a component focusing on the Mississippi River Delta and the Gulf's dead zone. Their research of the Gulf has been another mechanism in the protection and sustainment of Louisiana's wetlands.

This year's first place recipient in the Individual category went to Kerry Michael St. Pé, Program Director for the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in Louisiana.

The Gulf of Mexico Program initiated the Gulf Guardian awards in 2000 as a way to recognize businesses, community groups, individuals and agencies that take positive steps to keep the Gulf region healthy, beautiful and productive. Awards are presented each year in seven categories.

For a complete list of the 2009 award winners, visit the Gulf of Mexico Program Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/gmpo>.

For more information about the Gulf Guardian Awards and the Gulf of Mexico Program, call 228-688-3726 or go to: <http://www.epa.gov/gmpo>.